Akatoki no Yami

Bliss & Ochibichan

Volume 1 Chapter 1

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By: Kawai Yumiko & Kano Ayumi

Credits

Scanner: Kurenai
Translator: Cheezy
Cleoner: Ciong
Typesetter: Kinky
QC: Angelintheice
Proofreoder: Winternite

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Information

Heian Period - 794 - 1185 It's the period in Japan where Chinese influences are at their peak and, also the prime era of Japanese Imperial court. The period is named after the capitol city Heian-kyo, the modern day Kyoto.

Nara Period - 710 - 794. Empress Genmei established the capital of Heijou-kyou (present day Nara). Most Japanese during this period were agricultural by economy and centered on villages. The capital is modeled after Chang-An (Present day Xi-An) during the Tang Dynasty in China. Though most villagers practiced Shinto, the upper-classmen adopted Chinese culture (kanji, fashion and Buddhism)

Onmyoudo (陰陽道) - is a traditional Japanese esoteric cosmology based on Chinese philosophies of Wu Xing and Yin and Yang. It's accepted as a practical system of divination, further influenced by Taoism, Buddhism and Shintoism to form the present-day onmyoudo. Onmyodo was practiced until the middle of 19th century, when it was prohibited as superstition. Though, the ban has been lifted in 2006 and anybody may study it.

Onmyouji (陰陽師) - Practitioners of onmyoudo, onmyouji were specialists in magic and divination. They were part of the civil servants belonging to the Bureau of Onmyou during ancient Japan.

Kourai (高麗) - Korea during the Goryeo dynasty

Kebiishi-bettou (検非違使別当) - A Kebiishi is a legislative office during the Heian and Kamakura period. Bettou here can either be the head of an institution serving temporarily as the head of another, or the full time head of an institution. In religious term, bettou is a monk who performs Buddhist rites at shrines and jinguuji (shrine part of a temple).

暁の闇

かわい有美子×夏乃あゆみ

暁の闇

アカトキノヤミ

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MIYA-SAMA, IT'S TIME TO RETIRE TO THE MAIN WING...
IT'S THUN-DERING?
JUDGING FROM THE WEATHER, IT'LL BE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH
Hm.
IF I WERE TO BE STRUCK BY THUNDER AND DISAPPEAR, IT WILL BE AMUSING

第一夜
First night.

...YORIMICHI, THUNDER-STORM IS BREWING,
"RAIJIN'S ABOUT TO CROSS THE CLOUDS
*Raijin: God of Thunder
YOU SEE HIM, MUHAKU?
CAN'T YOU EVEN PERCEIVE THE PRESENCE OF A LOWLY RAIJIN?
BECAUSE OF THAT, SOMEONE LIKE KOKUSHU NO YAMATO NO KAMI SENT YOU TO THE PLAINS TO RUN SOME PETTY ERRANDS.
AT FIRST I WAS REALLY THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO GET A JOB RELATED TO ONMYOUJI AFTER SO LONG...
IF THIS CONTINUES ON, THE NAME OF KAMO CLAN AS AN ONIMYOUJI CLAN WILL BE OBSCURED

The capital has moved from Nara* to Kyoto two hundred years ago
The period now is Heian.
splash
splash
DARN IT
IT'S STARTING TO RAIN?
Within the capital, noblemen and merchants have rows and rows of houses.
flowers are in full bloom it is as extravagant as Tang Dynasty's capital
*Nara referring to Nara period.

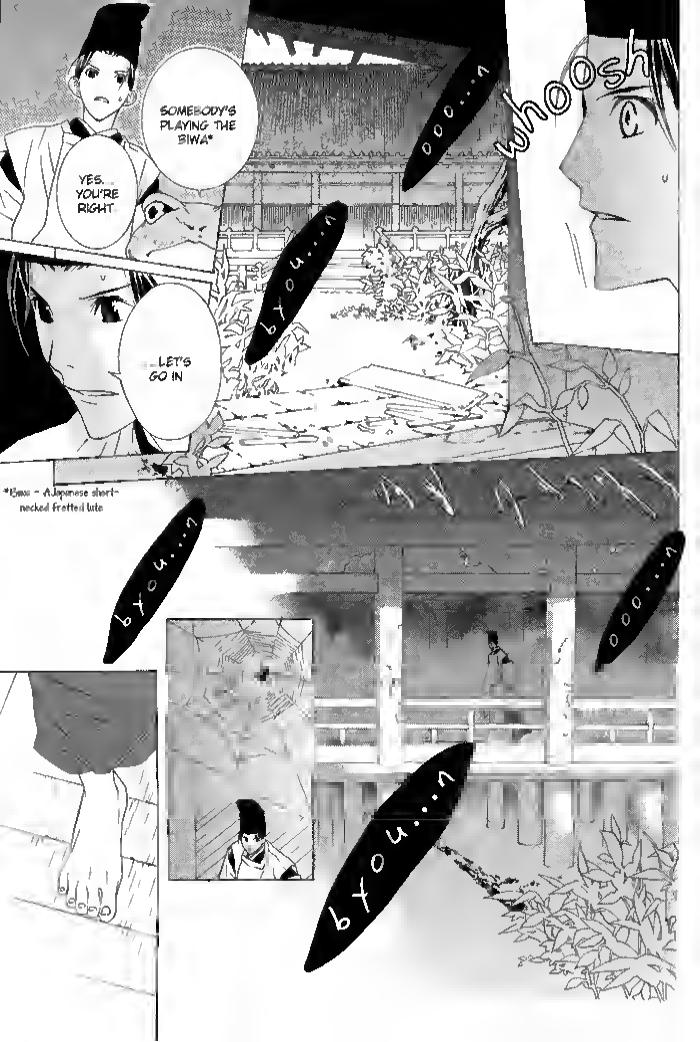
BY THE WAY, YORIMICHI
WHAT DID YAMATO NO KAMI ENTRUST YOU TO DO?
HE WANTS ME TO PAY HIS RESPECT TO KORETAKA-SHINNOU WHO HAS CLOSED HIMSELF OFF STAYING IN THIS PLAIN
THAT SLY YAMATO NO KAMI SHOVED ME A TASK I CAN'T DECLINE.
croak croak
YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF AN UNLUCKY TASK
EVEN IF HE ISN'T YAMATO NO KAMI, NOBODY'S WILLING TO GO ANYWAY
WHO WANTS TO VISIT THAT INSANE MIYA-SAMA?!
They say that amongst the three children of the emperor, Koretaka-shinnou is the brightest.
During the period he was still a Crown Prince, he was known as the genius Crown Prince.
But ever since the late emperor was bed ridden
he started to act oddly
TELL ME, MUHAKU! ARE THOSE RUMOURS TRUE?

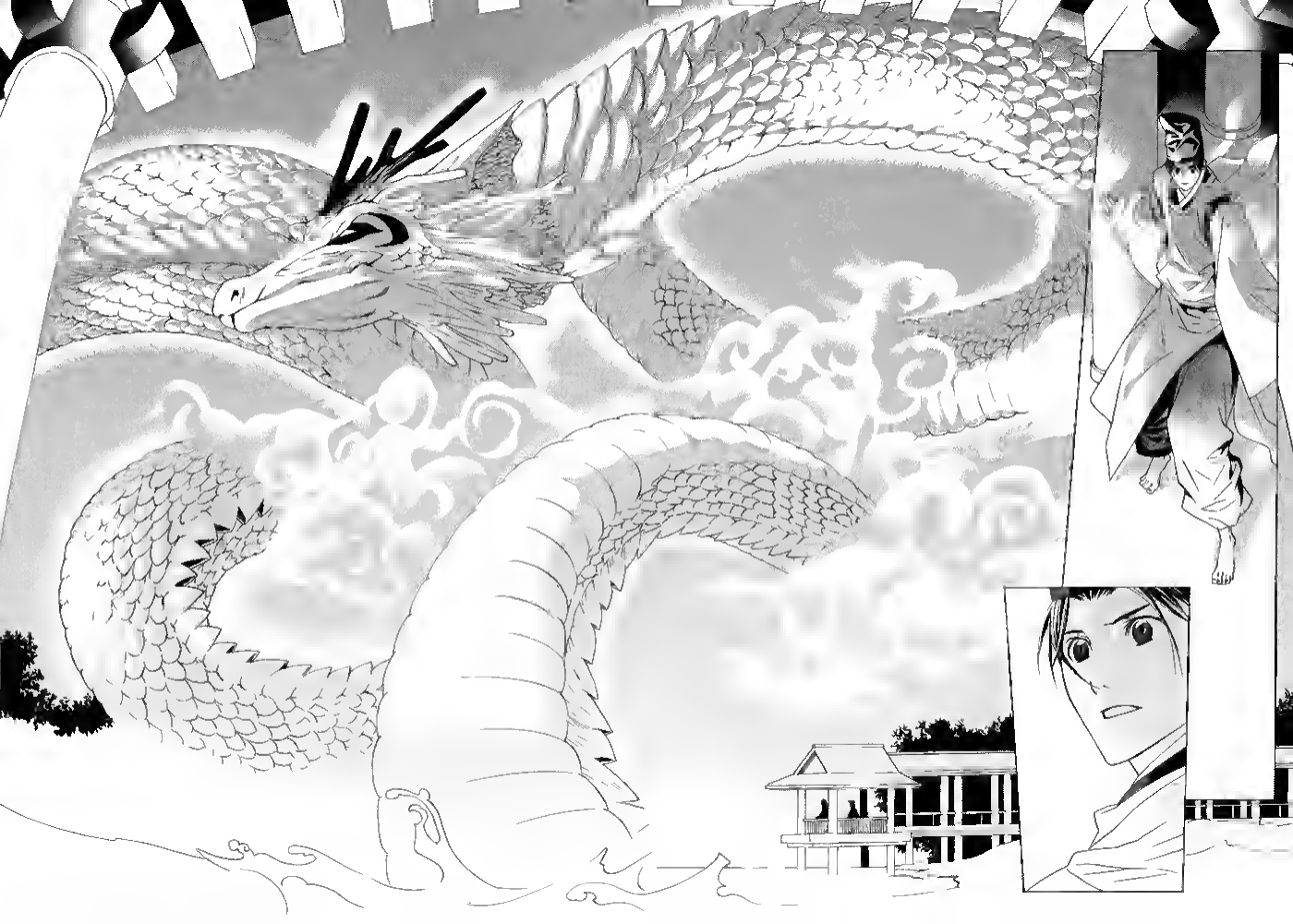
I HEARD KORETAKA-SHINNOU MURDERED SOMEONE IN THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
WHO KNOWS.
WHAT THOSE COURT OFFICIALS DO WILL NEVER REACH OUR EARS.
BUT IN REALITY, THERE WERE SOME DEATHS REPORTED,
KORETAKA-SHINNOU BECAME A BANISHED PRINCE AND GOT CHASED OUT OF THE PALACE,
THAT'S A FACT.
EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS A TIME HE WAS HAILED AS A GENIUS.
BUT ONCE HE LOST EVERYTHING HE BECAME JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.
When a person's status in the crown prince's palace been revoked his reputation and fortune
went along with his body—
Even a prince isn't an exception to this.

In the palace, power is everything
If one does not have the recognition and continues to climb higher he will never survive the capital
RAIJIN WENT AWAY,
NOT LONG BEFORE THE RAIN DWINDLES, TOO
roar
roar
roar
No I still can't see anything
I SEE THE DOUSOJIN*,
WE'RE ABOUT TO REACH THE PLAIN'S MANSION.

*Dousojin Traveler's guardian deity

THIS...
IS QUITE A RUINED MOUNTAIN VILLA.
EXCUSE ME, IS ANYBODY HERE?
LET'S JUST HURRY UP AND COMPLETE THIS BORING MISSION!
rustle
I UNDERSTAND. LET'S GO, MUHAKU


SOMEBODY'S PLAYING THE BIWA*
YES. YOU'RE RIGHT
LET'S GO IN
*Biwa - A Japanese short-necked fretted lute
whoosh
byou...n
byou...n
byou...n
byou...n
byou...n



.....
THIS IS...!

sfx: wah!
yori-michi ...!
sfx: whoosh

YOU CAN SEE HIM, YORIMICHI?
THEN
DOES THIS MEAN THE RAIN S GOING TO STOP TOMORROW?
YES
BUT IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T GO OUT TOMORROW
THERE WILL BE A STORM THREE DAYS FROM NOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK
RYUUJIN-SAMA TOLD ME JUST NOW
I felt something flowing through my body...
Chichue* Ryuujin*-sama is returning to the mountain
*Chichue — A very formal way to address father
*Ryuujin — Dragon god

IT'S STILL ALL RIGHT FOR NOW BUT IF ONE DAY HIS POWERS WERE TO GO AGAINST HIM
I'M JUST AFRAID OF THAT
BEING ABLE TO CONVERSE WITH A GOD
HIS POWERS ARE EVEN MORE POTENT THAN MINE, THE LEADER OF ONMYOUJI
...Chichiue...
there was no point worrying about me
HEY, HEY, HEY
ISN'T THIS KAMO-CLAN'S YORIMICHI-DONO?
CONGRATULATIONS ON TAKING A POST IN THE ONMYOU BUREAU
WE SHOULD CELEBRATE SO WHY DON'T YOU DEMONSTRATE AN AUSPICIOUS SIGN FOR US?
I HEARD YOU WERE FAMOUS FOR YOUR REMARKABLE POWERS WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG
I...
FORGET IT I HEARD YORIMICHI-DONO DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM HIS CHILDHOOD

THE
DRAGON
Slowly disappeared...
HE HIT HIS HEAD SOMEWHERE,
AND LOST THAT ABILITY.
Because as I grew older, that power
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DRAGON?
That's right...!
turn
jolt

DID YOU SEE A MONO-NOKE?
*Mononoke vengeful spirit or ghost

Moreover,
this person is
Was it an illusion?
How's that possible
NO...
Thud
HEY, YOU, WITH THAT GIRLY FACE
DRENCHED LIKE A RAT, YOU INVADED THIS PLACE WITHOUT A SOUND
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN INTRODUCED YOUR NAME AND YOU'RE ALREADY CONVERSING WITH MIYA-SAMA
YOU EVEN SHOWED SUCH UNCOUTH MANNER WITH YOUR STUPEFIED FACE
WHO DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON IS?

HE IS KORETAKA-SHINNOU, TATSU NO MIYA*-SAMA!
*Tatsu no Miya — Prince of the dragon
STOP IT, HARUAKI
BUT, MIYA-SAMA
That's right I remember now
*Sleeping dragon — an exceptionally great person hidden in the masses
"Never would I have thought Id see a sleeping dragon* here..."
Long ago
a rumor about this person when he was still the Crown Prince
A minister from Kourai* met Koretaka-shinnou on the street and said
*Kourai — Korea during the Goryeo dynasty.

I WAS SENT HERE BY YAMATO NO KAMI I AM KAMO NO YORIMICHI
WELL THEN WHO ARE YOU?
KAMO...
SPEAKING OF KAMO EVEN THOUGH IT'S A CLAN OF ONMYOUJI,
BUT THAT YAMATO NO KAMI ACTUALLY DARED TO SEND A FALLEN ONMYOUJI!
AS EVIDENCE, HE HAS AN UGLY TOAD HIDDEN UNDERNEATH HIS BED
PLEASE BE WARY, MIYA-SAMA.
But, why all of a sudden...
Am I able to see so clearly...?
Most probably,
referring to the "aspiration" emanated by him...?

YORIMICHI, THAT GUY HAS THE SAME BEASTLY STENCH AS MINE
WHO IS HE?
HE SENSED MUHAKU'S PRESENCE?
CHANT A SPELL AND LOOK
I see him!

WHAT'S WRONG, YORIMICHI?
.....
That's weird
My powers are increasing after arriving here
YOU BROUGHT A TOAD?
YES ABOUT THAT...
OH TOAD. IF YOU'RE THERE, PLEASE SHOW YOURSELF
thud
I AM CALLED 'MUHAKU'.
NICE TO MEET YOU,

WHAT A GIGANTIC TOAD!
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING A TOAD THIS BIG.
AND ONE CAPABLE OF HUMAN SPEECH.
YOU'VE FOUND A VERY GOOD COMPANION, YORIMICHI.
WELL THEN. WHAT DOES YAMATO NO KAMI NEED FROM ME?
I WAS ASKED TO ENQUIRE IF MIYA-SAMA NEEDED ANYTHING WHILST STAYING HERE.
IF THERE'S ANY DISSATISFACTION, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO VOICE THEM OUT.
DO YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT A POSITIVE REPLY FOR SUCH A DILAPIDATED PLACE?
STOP IT, HARUAKI.
PLEASE TELL YAMATO NO KAMI THAT THERE'S NOTHING FOR HIM TO WORRY ABOUT.
LIVING LIKE THIS HAS ITS OWN MERITS TOO. I'M QUITE SATISFIED.
Y-YES....

LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT FOR NOW, YORIMICHI, DO YOU MIND FIXING MY HAIR?
EH?
TODAY IS AN AUSPICIOUS DAY TO BATHE,
MY HAIR SHOULD BE DRY BY NOW
ME..?
MIYA-SAMA, YOU SHOULDN'T LET AN ONMYOUJI TOUCH YOUR HAIR!
WHAT IF HE PUTS A CURSE THROUGH MIYA-SAMA'S HAIR?
I WANT TO LISTEN TO HARUAKI'S IIWA.
AS LONG AS MIYA-SAMA COMMANDS ME TO, I AM...
YORIMICHI.
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

How is Miya sama as a person?
The rumours said he was a lunatic
but no matter how I look at it, he's neither a lunatic nor stupid
Is it because he has such a firm character
or is he just testing me, whether I'll harm him or not..?
YORI-MICHI
Furthermore he is so defenseless for someone he has only met today

WHEN I WAS STILL IN THE CROWN PRINCE PALACE,
YOU WERE ALWAYS BROUGHT IN TO THE PALACE BY YOUR FATHER, YORIAKIRA-DONO
YORIAKIRA-DONO WAS THE HEAD OF THE ONMYOU, ONE WHO HAS EXCELLENT ABILITIES
AND YOU WHO WAS STILL A CHILD THEN, WAS SAID TO HAVE ALREADY SURPASSED YOUR FATHER
HAVE I MET HIM BEFORE ?
IN THAT PALACE

TIME HAS PASSED...
BUT, DO YOU STILL CONVERSE WITH DEMONS AND GODS?
YOU WERE KNOWN AS THE MOST POWERFUL IN THE CAPITAL, THE SON OF YORIAKIRA-DONO...
IF IT'S POSSIBLE, I WANTED TO HAVE A DEEP CONVERSATION WITH YOU.
.....
...PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM THAT TIME,
AND LOST MY POWERS ALTOGETHER.
EVEN THE INCIDENT WHEN I'VE MET MIYA-SAMA...
YOU HAVE NO MEMORIES ...?
WHAT A SHAME...

MY FATHER, YORIMICHI HAS PASSED AWAY,
MATTERS OF THE PAST PLEASE FORGET ABOUT THEM
...YORI-MICHI.
ONCE YOU'VE GARNERED SUCH ASTONISHING POWERS
THE PAIN OF LOSING IT IS UNIMAGINABLE TO OTHERS
THE GREATER THE POWER, THE DEEPER THE PAIN AND AGONY.
...YOU'VE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL.
...Miya-sama...

WHAT GRACE AND ABUNDANCE OF WIT
I WONDER WHO WAS THE IDIOT WHO SAID MIYA-SAMA WAS CRAZY?
MOST IMPORTANTLY HE'S THE FIRST HUMAN WHO CAN SEE ME.
Since I've arrived here I've met with so much mystery.
DO YOU STILL THINK HE'S AN INSANE PRINCE?
NO...
I THINK THIS IS FATE.
YOU CAN JUST RELAX AND STAY HERE TO CONVERSE WITH ME FOR TODAY.

Ever since I saw the dragon
Ever since I met Tatsu no Miya-sama
creak
HE IS..?

MIYA-SAMA, IT HAS BEEN A WHILE
Step
I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VISIT. I DO HOPE EVERYTHING IS FINE AS ALWAYS
SPEAKING OF SANMI NO CHUUJYOU, HE'S THE KEBISHI-BETTOU*, RIGHT?
MIYA-SAMA, WHO IS THIS?
ISN'T THIS YUKI-NORI?
TODAY'S SUCH A RARE TREAT TO HAVE SO MANY VISITORS COMING HERE.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THIS MAN HERE'S THE SANMI NO CHUUJYOU* MINAMOTO NO YUKINORI

*Sanmi no Chuujyou – third ranked lieutenant general

*See info page.

WORRY NOT
HE IS KAMO NO YORIMICHI AN ONMYOUJI
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, HE'S SOME SPELL MASTER
sfx: bam

WHO PAID YOU TO COME HERE?
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, YOU WOULD MOST PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE LEAVE THIS PLACE ALIVE.
HOLD IT, YUKINORI.
DON'T STOP ME!
A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER LIKE THE ONMYOUJI,
WHO KNOWS WHERE HE IS CONSPIRING FROM
IT IS MY DUTY TO PROTECT MIYA-SAMA.
FOR SOMEONE WHO FAINTED JUST BY MIYA-SAMA'S PRESSURING AURA, DO YOU THINK HE'S ALL THAT POWERFUL?
CHUUJYOU-DONO IS ALWAYS MAKING SUCH A BIG FUSS OUT OF SMALL MATTERS
SHUT UP, FOX!

HURRY UP AND SHOW YOUR TRUE FORM, WILD FOX!
SPEAKING OF SUSPICION, YOU'RE THE SAME, TOO
PARADING AROUND MIYA-SAMA IN THAT HUMAN FORM, YOU MUST BE UP TO NO GOOD.
Don't compare me to those fox in the wilder-ness!
poof
They say that we are sacred beasts who bring peace to earth!
Tailed-foxes are divine foxes serving under Seioubo*.
*Queen of the East

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU.
Slut
WHAT...?!
I'm different from a martial arts idiot like you!
Unlike one who doesn't appreciate elegance or console Miya-sama...
Currently I'm five hundred years old, hence only five tails.
but as time flows, I'll definitely achieve nine tails one day
soaring in the air!
WHY IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO OF YOU ALWAYS SO...! SO...!
TERRIBLE?

Please forgive me! I was the one who asked Yamato no Kami to come here!
WITHDRAW YOUR SWORD, YUKINORI. YORIMICHI HERE IS UNDER THE ORDERS OF YAMATO NO KAMI.
YAMATO NO KAMI?!
I WAS JUST HAVING A LOVELY CHAT WITH HIM BEFORE YOU CAME.
fall
YUKINORI, I'VE NO QUALMS ABOUT THIS PLACE
I ORDERED HIM TO GET A NEW ATTENDANT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE HERE...!
WITH THE CURRENT LACK OF ATTENDANTS,
JUST BY HAVING SOMEONE WHO'S WILLING TO VISIT ME IN GOOD WILL LIKE YOU,
I AM MORE THAN SATISFIED

MIYA-SAMA...
.....
YUKI-NORI?
EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BY MIYA-SAMA'S SIDE,
MIYA-SAMA'S WISDOM HAS NEVER CHANGED...
NATURALLY, MIYA-SAMA SHOULD NEVER BE AT A PLACE LIKE THIS BUT INSTEAD, BECOME THE EMPEROR OF THE WORLD
...IF ONLY THAT INCIDENT NEVER HAPPENED...
grit
Please be patient for now!
When the time comes, Miya-sama's reputation will be restored and be known throughout the lands once again.

...YUKI-NORI.
ONE DAY...
DEFI-NITELY ...!
EVEN IF THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE PALACE WHO ARE SUSPICIOUS OF THAT INCIDENT
BUT THERE ARE STILL QUITE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO LOOK UP TO MIYA-SAMA.
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SAY THOSE WORDS AGAIN!

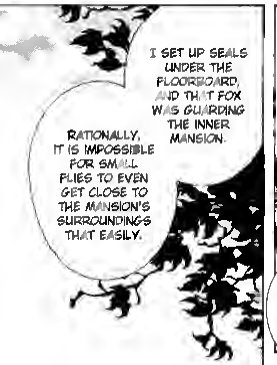
PHRASES LIKE "EMPEROR OF THE WORLD"..
FOR A MAN WITH HIGH INTELLIGENCE,
WHY DO YOU SAY THOSE SUPERFICIAL WORDS SO EASILY...
...Miya-sama...?

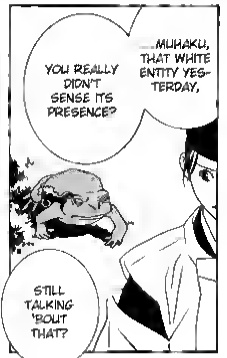
THEY'VE EVEN LET US STAY THE NIGHT I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D BE OUT THIS LONG...
MUHAKU
THIS IS MIYA-SAMA'S KINDNESS
BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO WALK BACK DURING THE NIGHT
Furthermore
Miya-sama's words.
Just like me
Earnestly hoping to return there
ching...
THAT'S RIGHT. RANKED LIEUTENANT GENERAL'S AID THERE ARE PEOPLE WAITING FOR HIM
DOESN'T MIYA-SAMA WANT TO RETURN TO THE CAPITAL?

Ah!
WHAT'S WRONG, YORIMICHI?
step
silence
...It disappeared...

Nobody...
WHAT?
MUHAKU! WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Not even Muhaku saw it?
?
Nobody realized...
Am I the only one who can see...?

THAT CURSED FOX,
REALLY WANTED US TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND EVEN CAME OUT TO SEND US OFF HIMSELF.


I SET UP SEALS UNDER THE FLOORBOARD, AND THAT FOX WAS GUARDING THE INNER MANSION.
RATIONALLY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SMALL FLIES TO EVEN GET CLOSE TO THE MANSION'S SURROUNDINGS THAT EASILY.


...MUHAKU, THAT WHITE ENTITY YESTERDAY,
YOU REALLY DIDN'T SENSE ITS PRESENCE?
STILL TALKING 'BOUT THAT?

What's going on...
In this mansion..?

IF THAT'S THE CASE. IT WON'T HARM HIM
IT IS SOMEONE ACCEPTED BY MIYA-SAMA.
THAT'S WHY, EVEN IF IT IS,
BUT I COULD SEE IT CLEARLY. IF THAT AYAKASHI'S EVIL, THEN MIYA-SAMA'S LIFE IS IN DANGER...
If I'm the only one able to see that thing...
Is it really all right for me to leave like that?

MU-HAKU, THAT CHIMATA NO KAMI*
DIDN'T THAT JII-SAMA STAND THERE YESTERDAY?
YOU PASSED BY WITHOUT A CHANGE OF EXPRESSION TOO RIGHT?
OH, I SEE THE DOUSOJIN NOW
WE'RE ALMOST REACHING HOME
*Chimata no Kami ... Japanese god of crossroads, boatway and footpath.
.....
I couldn't see him yesterday
Ever since then
Then there's no doubt about it

*He said "Chichi-gami" which is supposed to be a form of respect to refer to another person's father, but he's saying it with a sarcastic tone...
Just like your path... why don't you demonstrate an auspicious sign, too?
In the palace, power is everything.
IT'S SO MUCH BETTER FOR YOU TO STAY BY MIYA-SAMA'S SIDE
DON'T WORK FOR YAMATO NO KAMI ANYMORE!
YORI-MICHI?
MY POWERS.
THEY'VE RETURNED
MUHA-KU

I don't understand which aspect of that person has left an impact upon me...
But as long as I stay by Miya-sama's powerful presence
I may be able to recover what I've lost
IF MY POWERS IS ABLE TO HELP THAT PERSON...

I want to serve under that person.

暁の月
アカツキノヤミ
1
原作 かわい有美子
漫画 夏乃あゆみ
暁の闇
アカツキノヤミ
1
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